



TOWN OF

K E N S I N G T O N

DECEMBER
2003
JOURNAL

Meeting Schedule

Monday, December 15th at 7:00 p.m.

Work Session

Safeway will be discussing their final plans with the Council

January 5, 7:00 p.m. Work Session

January 26, 7:30 p.m. Town Meeting

Holiday Celebration

Join us for our Holiday Celebration on Friday, December 5 at 7 p.m.
at the Howard Avenue Park
(see inside flyer for details)

Beware!

Do not give hand outs to anyone. Several residents have informed us that a former employee of the Town of Kensington has been going door to door late at night asking for money. Montgomery County Police advise residents not to give handouts to anyone coming to your home door with requests for money.

Contact us at 3710 Mitchell Street, Kensington, MD 20895

Phone: 301-949-2424; Fax: 301-949-4925;

E-mail: mayor.council@tok.org; Web Site: www.tok.org

TOWN HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

The Town Offices will be closed on December 25th and 26th. There will not be a trash pick up on Friday, December 26th. Trash pick up will be on Monday, December 29th.

The Town Offices will be closed on January 1st and 2nd, however there **will be** a trash pick up on Friday January 2nd.

Town Offices will be closed on January 19th. There will not be a trash pick up. Trash pick up will be on Tuesday, January 20th.

Volunteers

Volunteers needed to help create new Town web site

Are you good with words? Do you have an eye for graphic design? Have some good digital photos of a Town landmark or a recent Town event? Are you knowledgeable about the Town and the area? If you can say yes to any of the above, we hope you can volunteer to help. No computer skills are required. The Mayor and Council recently approved a plan to update and expand our Town website with more photos and information. We need help from Town residents to put the finishing touches on the design. Please contact the Town office if you are interested in helping.

Building Permits Issued

Alteration at 10525 Summit Avenue
Replace shed at 3606 Dupont Avenue
New fence at 10023 Frederick Avenue
New porch at 10401 Metropolitan Avenue
Addition at 3817 Calvert Place
Fence at 10039 Frederick Avenue

Farmers Market

The Farmers Market is still open on Saturdays between 8:00 – 12:00 at the Train Station. Many vendors will continue to be there through December.

The Journal is now being mailed. If you are already reading it on the web site or if you do not wish to receive it, please contact the Town Office to have your address removed from the mailing list in an effort to cut expenses. Thank you for your cooperation.

Mayor's Report

This past month has been a busy one. The Town sent our proposal to MNCP&PC for the restoration and reuse of Kensington Cabin. The process has taken us two years of planning and proposal preparation. We are excited with the prospect of restoring this last remaining log cabin in a Montgomery County Park and putting it to community use. The Kensington Cabin Committee is made up of private citizens, a Town builder, a Town architect, both Woman's Clubs, the Kensington Historical Society and Town Officials. The Committee has been great to work with and we all look forward to continuing our work until completion.

The Mayor attended a Park and Planning Staff meeting this month regarding the proposed Safeway redevelopment. Safeway will have their final plans ready by December 1, 2003. They will give a copy to the Town for any interested parties to review and if they have questions they can put them in writing for the Council to ask at the Work Session on December 15, 2003.

The December Work Session is for informational purposes. It is not a public hearing and no comments or questions will be entertained from the floor. Much misinformation has been distributed to the general public by those in opposition to some aspects of the redevelopment. Our hope is that this meeting will clarify Safeway's proposal and put an end to the inaccurate information appearing in flyers and e-mail correspondence. Anyone interested in hearing the facts of the proposal are invited to attend and listen. We hope to see you at this meeting.

The fire alarm system in Town Hall/Community Center is underway. We hope to have this project completed by the end of November. The Armory Committee met last month and are moving forward with other plans for the restoration of this building.

The Kite Contest in October was a great success thanks to Val Deale and his volunteers who planned this fun event. The weather was fine and we had a good turn out. Thank you to Val Deale and all who helped him with planning and execution. Thanks also to the Grace Episcopal School for co-sponsoring the event with the Town.

Thanks to the Kensington Lions Club who held an event at Town Hall on November 11 to honor all military veterans of Kensington. An American Flag that had been flown over the U.S. Capitol was presented to the Town during the event. Our thanks to Walter Schmitt for organization of the event.

The Mayor attended several meetings this past month representing the Town.

Council Reports

Council Member Carr

Wake/Frederick – The Council has agreed to hire a traffic engineer to look at the problem of cut through traffic on Wake Drive. I have met with and spoken with residents on Wake, Frederick and Kent who have helped to define the problem and have suggested some possible changes. I also met with the traffic engineer last week on site. The goal is to have the traffic engineer identify and analyze the options for improving the problem. Once options are identified along with costs, pros & cons and potential impact on nearby streets, the Council can make a decision about implementing a possible change. If this approach is successful, we can replicate it at other traffic hot spots around Town.

Summit/Knowles – I drafted a letter to request Montgomery County executive Doug Duncan to study the efficiency of the Summit Knowles Intersection and consider making needed improvements. Park and Planning's 2000 Kensington Concept Plan had envisioned several traffic and pedestrian improvements at this intersection.

Safeway – I wrote up a list of potential traffic and pedestrian improvements near Safeway. I provided these to the Mayor who has been attending meetings with Park & Planning staff and Safeway officials to discuss the development of the new Safeway store.

Sidewalks – I have received several comments from residents about overgrown shrubs, tree branches, grass and debris blocking the sidewalks. Please be considerate of your neighbors and trim back or edge any vegetation that is blocking or narrowing the sidewalk abutting your property. And as we approach winter, please remember to keep sidewalks clear of snow and ice.

Town Web site – If you are interested in helping implement the Town's redesigned web site, please let me know.

Please feel free to contact me any time with a question, concern or suggestion:
acarr@aol.com 946-4956

Council Member Pfautz

Tree Board Meeting (November 6th): A summary of my first meeting with the Tree Board follows: a request from the Council to review a sidewalk petition at 10309 Armory Avenue regarding impact to existing cherry tree was reviewed (a copy of the Board's recommendation is at the Town Office); there was discussion on proposing a tree replacement ordinance (in cases of new construction) - the merits and pitfalls. Louise Hamilton and Leanne Pfautz will work on a rough draft for review by the Board at the next meeting; there was discussion on adding specific language to the Town building permit outlining responsibilities regarding trees pursuant to Town Code Section 8-805(c). David Furman will follow-up; approval for purchase of tree inventory software; discussion on the need for new plantings in the triangle on Fawcett Street. Anne Elsbree

will develop a proposal to include appropriate low maintenance ground cover (to withstand salt, sand and snowplow) and perhaps spring bulbs; Louise Hamilton informed the Board that new fines had been set for tree infractions as follows:

Article 8 Trees

Section 8-804: (a) It shall be unlawful for any person to damage, cut, destroy, or injure any tree, shrub, or plant planted in the public right-of-way including public areas. This provision shall not apply to ordinary care and maintenance by any person authorized by the Mayor to exercise such care. **FINE: Class E \$130 first offense/\$260 subsequent offenses**

Section 8-804: (b) It shall be unlawful for any person to attach a sign, notice, or advertisement to a tree or shrub in the public right-of-way and public areas. **FINE: Class G \$45 first offense/\$90 subsequent offenses**

Section 804: (c) It shall be unlawful for any person to place or store cement, asphalt, or any other substance in the public right-of-way and public areas which might impede access to the roots of trees for air or water. **FINE: Class A \$520 first offense/\$520 subsequent offenses**

Section 8-805: (a) It shall be unlawful for any person to plant, trim, spray, or remove or perform any other treatment to a tree, shrub, or plant in the public right-of-way or public areas without first obtaining permission from the Town except that:

- (1) If a tree is uprooted or its branches broken so as to contact telephone, telegraph or electric power or other wires carrying electric current or if a tree or the tree's branches endanger persons or property, said tree may be trimmed on an emergency basis with permission from the Town.
- (2) Ordinary care such as watering may be performed without permit or other permission.

FINE: Class E \$130 first offense/\$260 subsequent offenses

Section 8-805: (c) During erection, alteration or repair of any building or structure, the owner or contractor shall place guards or barriers as close as possible to the drip line of all nearby trees in the public right-of-way and public areas. **FINE: Class A \$520 first offense/\$520 subsequent offenses**

Director of Operations Report

No Trash Pick on Friday, November 28 after Thanksgiving.

How to dispose of paints

If it is a latex paint, open the can and allow the paint to dry out. Once the paint has dried out, the paint can be placed with the regular trash pick up. Oil based paints are hazardous

waste. It is best to try to use the paint up. To dispose of oil based paint check with Montgomery County for Household Hazardous Waste Pickup. The next day for pick up is at Shady Grove Transfer Station Saturday, December 7th from 10am to 2pm.

Roads and Sidewalks

Resurfacing of Kensington Parkway and Warner Street (east of Conn. Ave.) is completed. Re-stripping of these streets along with Plyers Mill, Howard, and St. Paul streets will be done as weather allows.

Yard Waste and Leaves

Please, we do not handle yard waste in plastic bags. Leaves are to be raked to the curb. We can not guarantee when we will be by your home. To prevent leaves blowing from your pile put leaves in paper yard bags to be picked up with yard waste or cover your pile with a tarp. Do not mix sticks with the leaves, as sticks clog and damage the vacuum. Our crew will not pick up a co-mingled pile.

Please Recycle

Town Meeting

October 27, 2003

A public hearing was held on proposed changes to Chapter V of the Town of Kensington Code, Housing and Building Regulations. The proposed changes included increasing the setback to 11 feet with allowance for Montgomery County exemptions and more stringent variance requirements. Residents expressed concerns both against and in favor of the proposed changes. The majority of the Council concurred to discuss the changes with MNCPPC/County before introducing the changes.

Mayor Raufaste called the Meeting to order at 9:40 p.m. with Council Members Carr, Cowan, Pfautz, and Timlin, Director of Operations Furman, and Clerk-Treasurer Engels present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. A Moment of Silence was observed.

The Mayor and Council presented monthly reports.

The Mayor swore in Doug Smith for the Ethics Commission.

Council Actions

Council Member Carr moved to confirm the Mayor's appointment of Doug Smith to the Ethics Commission for the remainder of a two year term which began March 31, 2003. Council Member Cowan seconded and it passed unanimously.

Council Member Pfautz moved to confirm the Mayor's appointment of John Anderson to the Tree Board for a two year term. Council Member Timlin seconded and it passed unanimously.

Council Member Pfautz moved to approve the minutes from the September 22, 2003 Town Meeting and the October 7, 2003 Work Session. Council Member Timlin seconded and it passed unanimously.

Council Member Pfautz moved to increase revenue and increase expense in the 2002-2003 budget for \$27,504 for the 8K race. Council Member Cowan seconded and it passed unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:10 p.m.

Work Session of Mayor & Council

November 3, 2003

The Work Session commenced at 7:00 p.m. Mayor Raufaste, Council Members Carr, Pfautz, and Timlin, Director of Operations Furman, and Code Enforcement Officer Hamilton were present and the following issues were addressed:

Representatives from the Kensington Volunteer Fire Department were present and requested the support of the Mayor and Council in opposition to Montgomery County Bill 36-03, Fire and Rescue Services, which they stated would eliminate citizen participation, oversight, and input into the fire and rescue services.

The Council agreed to hire a traffic engineer to study the intersection of Wake Drive and Frederick Avenue and the impact of any traffic calming methods on surrounding streets.

The Mayor and Council discussed the revised proposed changes to Chapter 5 of the Town of Kensington Code, Housing and Building Regulations. The Council concurred that further research was needed before changing this section and will leave the Town Code as is which is a 10-ft side yard setback with no projections.

The Project List was reviewed and updated.

The Code Enforcement monthly report was reviewed.

Municipal infraction fines were discussed and set for Section 8-804 and Section 8-805 as follows: Section 8-804 A. Class E; B. Class G; C. Class A; and Section 8-805 A. Class E; C. Class A.

The monthly correspondence was reviewed.

A petition from a resident for a sidewalk on Armory Avenue was received. The State Tree Forester will be contacted to review the condition of an existing cherry tree and to determine if a sidewalk would damage the tree.

The minutes from the October 27, 2003 Town Meeting were reviewed.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:00 p.m.

Let the Holiday Season Begin!

Join us as we celebrate the holiday season on

Friday, December 5 at 7 p.m.

at the Howard Avenue Park in front of the Prevention of Blindness Shop.

Santa Claus will arrive on a KVFD fire truck to light an evergreen tree,

donated by St. Paul's United Methodist Men and

Sewell's Farm in Taneytown.

Following Santa's visit, enjoy holiday music sung by members of Kensington Arts Theatre.

Stand by a warm fire and enjoy delicious cookies, hot chocolate and cider thanks to the

generous donations of the Kensington Historical Society, Circle Manor

and Barbara & Patrick O'Donnell

Other free local community events taking place during the holiday season:

Tuesday - November 25, 8 p.m.

Kensington -North Chevy Chase Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

Sponsored by the Kensington-North Chevy Chase Ministerium

North Chevy Chase Christian Church, 8814 Kensington Parkway

For directions call (301) 654-3631

Friday - December 5, 7 - 10 p.m.

Antique Row Open House Sponsored by the

Merchants on Howard Avenue's Antique Row

For details call Diane Solomon (301) 946-4242

Sunday - December 7, 3:30 p.m.

Levine's 3rd Annual Family Holiday Concert - Kids receive a special treat!

Sanctuary, St. Paul's United Methodist Church - 10401 Armory Ave.

Percussion faculty member Leon Khoja-Enyatyan and daughter Vicki perform a fun, dynamic exploration of rhythm & percussion instruments through a narrative story.

A suzuki flute choir, led by faculty Joyce Bennett and Rebecca Collaros will perform holiday tunes.

At the concert, Levine School will collect donations of new gloves, blankets, dark colored caps, men's white tube socks and travel size toiletries for Shepherd's Table a non-profit organization serving less fortunate residents of Montgomery County.

For details call (301) 933-0929